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TAFFIN TESTS

John Taffin

**THE SIXGUNNER
HIMSELF: GUNS,
GEAR AND MORE**

Buffalo Bore Ammunition



Final Score: Buffalo Bore 1, buffalo 0.

It began with the idea of one more near-perfect packin' pistol, this time in the then-new .480 Ruger.

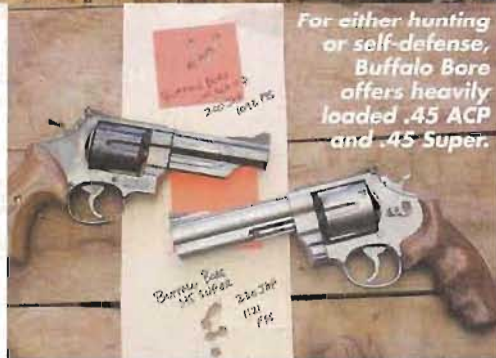
A call to Bob Baker at Freedom Arms resulted in a Freedom Arms 4.5" Field Grade Model 83 .475 Linebaugh, with an extra cylinder chambered in .480 Ruger. One of my near-perfect packin' pistols is another

Freedom Arms Model 83, a 4.5" Premier Grade .454 Casull, with three extra cylinders in .45 Colt, .45 ACP and .45 WinMag. This has been one of my do-it-all sixguns for well over 15 years now. I expected the new combination of .475 and .480 to do just as well, and I was not disappointed.

The original factory loaded .480 Ruger from Hornady was a 325 grain JHP with a muzzle velocity of 1,206 fps from a 4.5"-barreled sixgun, namely the Freedom Arms test gun with the .480 Ruger cylinder in place. I wanted something different for what I was about to hunt. In late November 2001, I took the Freedom Arms 4.5" .480 Ruger to the YO Ranch to take part in the 12th Annual Handgun Hunters Against Hunger Hunt for the benefit of the Salvation Army. Over the years more than 100,000 pounds of meat have been donated through this one hunt alone. I personally had taken almost everything the YO had to offer, from Fallow Deer, Axis Deer, Blackbuck, Ibex, Whitetail deer, Mouflon, Corsican, Marino, Four-horn, Waterbuck and Aoudad, to name some of them. I got the heads; the homeless got the meat. I wanted something really big this time.

My quarry on this hunt would rival the Eland shot in South Africa several years ago as the largest animal I had ever taken with a handgun. I was going after a bison, the American Buffalo. On the first morning of the hunt, my guide, Don McMinn and I were out at daylight and it took us about an hour and a half to find a group of a dozen or so bulls on the 50,000 acre ranch. I picked out what

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For either hunting or self-defense, Buffalo Bore offers heavily loaded .45 ACP and .45 Super.

Sample Loads:

Sixgun	Load	MV	Group/ 25 Yds
HEAVY .45 COLT			
Ruger Super Redhawk 9.5"	325 LBT	1,403	n/a
Ruger Super Redhawk 9.5"	260 JHP	1,592	n/a
Ruger Redhawk 7.5"	300 JFN	1,367	.5**
HEAVY .44 MAGNUM			
Ruger Super Redhawk 9.5"	270 JFN	1,545	n/a
Ruger Super Redhawk 9.5"	300 JFN	1,392	n/a
Taurus Raging Bull 6.5"	325 LBT	1,570	2 1/2"
Taurus Raging Bull 6.5"	300 JFN	1,618	1 1/2"
HEAVY .41 MAGNUM			
Freedom Arms Model 83 10"	265 LBT	1,481	7/8**
Freedom Arms Model 83 10"	170 JHP	1,885	7/8**
HEAVY .454 CASULL			
Taurus Raging Bull 6.5"	300 JFN	1,590	1 1/2"
Taurus Raging Bull 6.5"	360 LBT	1,400	2 1/2"
Ruger Super Redhawk 9.5"	300 JFN	1,332	1 1/2**
.475 LINEBAUGH			
BFR 6.5" .480/.475	420LBT	964	7/8**
BFR 6.5" .480/.475	420LBT	1,307	1 1/2**
.480 RUGER			
Taurus Raging Bull 6.5"	370 LBT	987	2"
Taurus Raging Bull 6.5"	410 LBT	1,154	7/8"
HEAVY .44 SPECIAL			
Colt 7.5" New Frontier	255 Keith	1,112	1 1/2"
S&W Model 24 6.5"	255 Keith	1,066	2"
TLA Flat-Top Target 7.5"	255 Keith	1,128	1 1/2"
.45 ACP + P			
S&W Model 25-2 4"	185 JHP	1,171	1 1/2"
S&W Model 25-2 4"	.45 ACP 200 JHP	1,042	1 1/2"
S&W Model 25-2 4"	.45 ACP 230 JHP	939	2 1/2"
.45 SUPER			
S&W Model of 1989 5"	185 JP	1,296	2 1/2"
S&W Model Of 1989 5"	200 JHP	1,219	2 1/2"
S&W Model of 1989 5"	230 JHP	1,121	1 1/2"

* Indicates tested with scope in place.



Taurus Raging Bull .454 performs well with Buffalo Bore's Heavy .45 Colt loads.

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TAFFIN TESTS

Continued from page 48

looked to be the best lookin' bull, as far as a mounted head would go. I was about 35 yards away. I was using Buffalo Bore's (Buffalo Bore for a buffalo seemed totally appropriate to me!) 410 gr. hard cast bullet .480 load that does around 1,100 fps from the short-barreled Packin Pistol. Penetration was complete — in one side and out the other — and my hunt was over before the sun even warmed us up.

Buffalo Bore's .480 load had performed perfectly, as I took the first really large animal I know of with the .480 Ruger round. Buffalo Bore's load did exactly as expected. They offer only serious hunting loads for serious hunters. Buffalo Bore's motto is "Strictly Big Bore, Strictly Business" and they mean exactly that. They offer only big bore loadings, every one of which is a serious round for serious purposes. The smallest bore they offer is the .41 Magnum, followed by all the big bore sixgun loadings, .44 Magnum, .45 Colt, .454 Casull, .480 Ruger, .475 Linebaugh, and .500 Linebaugh. Serious stuff for serious hunting.

Heavy .45 Colt

Buffalo Bore offers .45 Colt loads suitable for hunting big game where deep penetration is required. All of Buffalo Bore's .45 Colt loads are advertised as "Heavy .45 Colt" and are for use only in modern heavy duty .45 Colt sixguns. There are three standard offerings. For maximum penetration, a hard cast 325 grain LBT-LFN at 1,325 fps; for penetration combined with expansion, a 300 grain Speer PSP (Plated Soft Point) at 1,300 fps; and for smaller critters where expansion is more important than deep penetration, Buffalo Bore offers a 260 grain jacketed hollow point at 1,450 fps. The fourth offering from Buffalo Bore was designed with the mid-framed Freedom Arms Model 97 .45 Colt in mind, and is a 300 grain Speer PSP at 1,200 fps.

Heavy .44 Magnum

Buffalo Bore's standard offerings in .44 Magnum consist of three heavy loads. There is the 270 grain Speer Gold Dot loaded to 1,450 fps; a 300 grain Speer PSP (Plated Soft Point) at 1,300 fps and finally, for maximum penetration, a 305 grain hard cast LBT-LFN (Long Flat Nose) rated at 1,325 fps.

Heavy .41 Magnum

Buffalo Bore, as far as I know, is the only company offering heavy-duty .41 Magnum hunting loads. Their standard weight bullet is a 170 gr. JHP at 1,650 fps. It is joined by two hard cast bullet loads, a 230 gr. Keith bullet rated at 1,450 fps;

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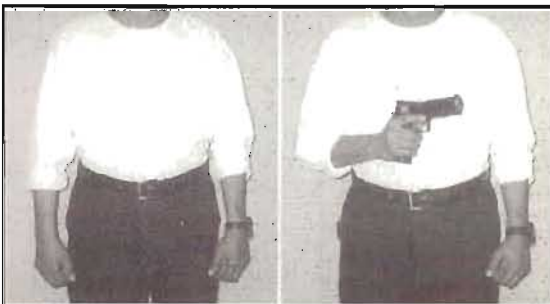
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and for maximum penetration, there is the 265 grain LWN (Long Wide Nose) at 1,350 fps. As with most Keith-bulleted rounds, the Buffalo Bore 230 will not fit the tight chambers of the Freedom Arms Model 83.

Heavy .454 Casull

Buffalo Bore offers two hard cast and one jacketed bullet load for the .454 Casull. The jacketed version consists of Freedom Arms' 300 gr. jacketed flat nose at 1,625 fps; while the two hard cast bullet loads are a 325 gr. LBT-LFN at 1,525 fps and a 360 grain LBT-WFN (Wide Flat Nose) at 1,425 fps. These loads will handle anything that walks!

.500 Linebaugh

John Linebaugh's first wildcat is yet to be offered in a factory-chambered revolver, however it's well represented by custom 5-shot revolvers from John Linebaugh, as well as other sixgunsmiths such as Hamilton Bowen, David Clements, Jack Huntington, Gary Reeder and Jim Stroh. The only factory loads available are those from Buffalo Bore. Three hard cast LBT designs, a 435 gr. LFN at an easy-shootin' 950 fps; the same bullet at a full-bore 1,300 fps; and a 440 gr. WFN for maximum shocking power combined with penetration at 1,250 fps, are all joined by a 400 gr. JHP at 1,400 fps. A 435 gr. LFN at 950 fps may be easy shootin' compared to the others, however it would certainly do the job on a deer or feral pigs.

.475 Linebaugh

John Linebaugh's original .475 was made by trimming .45-70 brass to length. The .45-70 has a large rim that fits in custom 5-shot cylinders fitted to Ruger frames. However there's not enough room for the same rounds to fit in a Freedom Arms cylinder, as the rims would overlap, as well as interfere with the ratchet. When Buffalo Bore began offering .475 Linebaugh ammunition as a factory chambering, the rims were trimmed to fit in the Freedom Arms-sized cylinders. So we now have the excellent Model 83 offered in .475 Linebaugh in all standard barrel lengths, as well as six versions of .475 ammunition from Buffalo Bore.

First comes an easy-shootin' loading of a 420 grain LBT-LFN at 950 fps.; the two heavy-duty cast bullet loads, both at 1,350 fps and both weighing in at 420 grains. One is an LBT-LFN for maximum penetration and the other an LBT-WFN (Wide Flat Nose) for maximum shocking power. For those who prefer jacketed bullets, there is a 400 gr. jacketed soft point at 1,400 fps, and finally two "custom" loadings of a 350 gr. JHP at 1,500 fps and a 440 LBT-WFN at 1,325 fps.

Heavy .480 Ruger

The .480 Ruger is simply the 1.400" .475 cut back to 1.275" and loaded by

Buffalo Bore to be easier handling than the bigger brother. For practice, or for deer hunting as well, there is the 370 gr. LFN in an easy-shooting 1,000 fps (if we can classify a 370 gr. bullet as "easy shooting"); the same bullet loaded to a full 1,300 fps and my choice for bison, the 410 gr. WFN, which clocks out at 1,200 fps from a 7.5" barrel.

Heavy .44 Special

During all the years Elmer Keith was trying to get ammunition companies to offer his 1,200 fps Keith load, he also asked if they could at least load it to 1,000 fps. Ammo manufacturers were concerned about his heavy load in older guns so he suggested this compromise. It never happened until now. Buffalo Bore offers a true 255 gr. hard cast Keith bullet rated at an even 1,000 fps. This load should do fine for close-range on small deer. The .44 Special also represents Buffalo Bore's first excursion into defensive ammunition with a 185 gr. JHP at 1,150 fps, especially for use in 5-shooters such as S&W's Models 296 and 696.

.45 ACP+P

This 90-plus year old round still remains the number one choice for self defense for a lot of handgunners. Buffalo Bore now offers four heavy .45 ACP loadings. They include three loads with Speer Gold Dots: a 185 gr. JHP at 1,150 fps, a 200 gr. JHP at 1,050 fps and 230 gr. JHP rated at 950 fps. The ACP lineup is rounded out with a 230 gr. FMJ FN at 950 fps.

.45 Super

For those who want everything they can get from the .45, Buffalo Bore offers four .45 Super loads. Two 230 gr loads at 1,100 fps are assembled with FMJ and JHP bullets, while two more JHP offerings are a 200 gr. JHP (1,200 fps) and a 185 gr. JHP at 1,300 fps. Again, JHP bullets are Speer Gold Dots. These JHP versions could also be just the ticket or those who want to use their Model 625 or Mountain Gun chambered in .45 ACP for hunting.

Buffalo Bore's .45 ACP rounds are loaded at 18,500 PSI, while the Supers run around 26,000 PSI. They should be used accordingly. Both are loaded with flash-suppressed powders to aid in defensive shooting, especially at night.

Whatever big bore sixgun you may have, and whatever you may want to hunt, Buffalo Bore probably has the perfect answer for your needs. All loads are tested by Buffalo Bore in actual sixguns so expect the MVs to be as rated. This is good stuff!



For more information contact, Buffalo Bore at 100 Freeman Creek Rd., Carmen ID 83462; (208) 756-8085.

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